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## **A Fern Society Campaign for Wild Plant Conservation.**

R. C. BENEDICT.

With the present number of the Fern Journal there is inserted as a supplement a reprint of the article "Game laws for ferns and wild flowers" from the second issue of the Journal for 1922. In reprinting the article has been slightly revised to allow the insertion of several sub-titles, and there has been added a cover with a new cut of the lady-slipper and pictures of the hart's-tongue and climbing fern.

The purpose of the reprint, as expressed on page 2 of the cover, is to hold up as a possible example for other states the action of Vermont in passing its recent general wild plant conservation law. The plan of the Fern Society is to distribute this reprint as widely as possible throughout the country to a selected mailing list of individuals and organizations likely to be actively interested. A considerable beginning has already been made, and details of the program will be given in later numbers. The following statement has been prepared at the request of the Council of the Fern Society.

For the present it may be noted that we have already had the cooperation of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden through the interest of the Director, Dr. C. Stuart Gager, to the extent of an order for 1,000 copies for distribution to the mailing list of the Botanic Garden "Leaflets," including nearly 800 residents of Brooklyn and Greater New York generally, together with about 200 Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. Later reprinting to the number of 1,500 to 2,500 copies is promised by Mr. P. L. Ricker, of the Washington chapter of the Wild Flower Preservation Society, for wider distribution.

The members of the Fern Society are asked to regard themselves as active members of state and local committees for their respective sections. If you can use additional copies to advantage, these will be sent on application to the writer. If large numbers are needed, try to arrange for a separate new reprinting at local expense. A printer's cost of three to five cents per copy may be counted on, according to the number ordered. Will not Fern Society members try to concentrate effective action in their own states? State campaigns will not necessarily take the same form or seek precisely the same aims. It is hoped, however, that the next few months may see wide-spread interest and activity throughout the country, so that the value of such concerted action may be gained.

The idea of a game law or other means for the protection of wild plants is not entirely a sentimental one, aimed merely to preserve rarities here and there for the pleasures of the initiated. The attitude of mind that is interested in wild things is an important factor in the whole program of conservation of natural resources. To preserve forests for future lumber needs is simply long-sighted business and patriotic sense. To develop an interest in the preservation of the wild through the appeal to the love of wild flowers is one important approach.

We can not claim for our campaign the economic aspects of the campaigns for the protection of wild birds, the feathered allies of man in the war against insects, but we can claim to be marching toward the same goal and, further, that our success will aid in the preservation of the homes of these bird friends.

The cost of reprinting the articles with additional plate and pages has been met by a special appropriation authorized by the Council in October. Included with this was a gift of \$25.00 by Mrs. William Spalding, of

Syracuse, a former member of the Society. Out of this total of \$75.00 there will be met the cost of the Society's supply of 1,700 reprints, some of the postage, the cost of the new plate, and additional items which will be reported in detail later.

The Council asks the aid of the members at large, not only in furthering the campaign of education, which it is hoped may be accomplished by the distribution of the reprint, but also by such cash contributions as may be possible toward the special printing fund, to the end that the Society's reserve for regular printing may be restored. If one-sixth of our three hundred members should send a dollar apiece to the Treasurer, the fifty dollar fund would be completely restored.

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### American Fern Society

Our Curator, Prof. L. S. Hopkins, is now settled at his new place of residence, Canton, Mo., where he is Dean of Culver-Stockton College. He wishes it announced that requests for the loan of specimens from the Society Herbarium should be sent to him at the above address and that he will now be able to give them immediate attention.

Through the kindness of Mrs. C. A. Weatherby, who has made the drawing, we are able to present the plate of *Adiantum pedatum*, var. *aleuticum* which accompanies Mr. Rugg's note on the finding of this plant in Vermont by Mrs. Frances L. Jolley—one of the most interesting discoveries made in the eastern United States in recent years. The drawing of var. *aleuticum* was made from one of Mrs. Jolley's specimens; that of typical *A. pedatum* from a specimen collected at Bolton, Conn.

With this number, volume 12 of the JOURNAL is completed: our readers may be interested in an account